Development of Small Airports in A.P.

1689. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has shown interest in developing and operating some smaller airports in the State so as to expand civil aviation facilities in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) State Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested for upgradation / development of small airports like Rajamundry, Tirupati, Warrangal, Cudappah etc. on various occasions. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken following developmental works at various smaller airports in the State of Andhra Pradesh:—

At Rajamundry airport, work for strengthening of runway, construction of a new apron and link taxiway and boundary wall have been taken up which is likely to be completed in March, 2002. At Vijayawada airport the existing runway has been strengthened and a new apron constructed with linked taxiway. The work was completed by July, 1999. At Visakhapatnam airport, construction of new runway of dimension 10,000 ft. x 150 ft. has been taken up. There are also proposals for construction of new apron, link taxiway etc. installation of Navigational aids and Ground Lighting facilities, provision of boundary wall, perimeter road, sub-fire station, approach road etc. and construction of a new Integrated Terminal Building to handle domestic as well as international passengers. The project is at preliminary Stage. AAI had requested Government of Andhra Pradesh to take over the non-operational airports at Donakonda, Cuddapah and Warrangal for aviation activities but there has been no response from the State Government.

International Flights from Hyderbad to Gulf Countries

1690. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign airlines which are operating International air services from and to Hyderabad Airport after being declared as International Airport with